

David Steer's Family

David has 4 children, Tony Lee and Sherry Lee who are attending Moulsham Secondary School, John Lee who is at Moulsham Junior School and little Rachel who is 2 years old.

They have been living on an "infill" of the Inगतstone Road for 7 years. This plot which they bought from an Estate Agent, "Walkers" of Inगतstone, is just past the corner with Highwood Road which is near Highwood Primary School and the village hall.

I do not know all the details but David Steers is very willing for me to introduce this family to Gratton Puxton and he has offered his 'phone number: 0779063 4757

There have been several Court appearances culminating with an appearance in London when Mrs Lyons represented the Council, I believe.

Unfortunately this family have no more money to pay for a solicitor, they currently owe money and they are very, very afraid that they will have to go through the same trauma as the Irish Travellers at Meadowlands who experienced a very violent eviction in January of this year. The date for their eviction is June 17, 2004 and all the family are suffering from the uncertainty.

In the past there has been a petition sent around the neighbours and this and letters from neighbours and from the 2 schools attended by the older children accompanied Mr Steers when His neighbour drove him to London as a supportive sympathizer. It would seem that all the neighbours support this application for planning permission.

Mr Steers is very confused because at least 2 plots in the Brentwood district who have been living on the plots only about 2 years have gained Planning Permission. These are only about 2 miles from David Steer's infill plot but

in the future is the 28 day deadline when they can put in a "Homeless" application. But this family doesn't NEED to be homeless.

I was told that Mrs Lyons said to the Judge that if this family had special circumstances they would be granted Planning Permission. David Steers said that he didn't have an opportunity to speak out but this family does seem to have special circumstances. The mother has a curvature of the spine as the result of a car accident when she was flung out of a vehicle and she has Doctor's letters and her regular prescriptions to back this up. Also, one of the older children, Sherry Lee, has learning difficulties and has an Educational Statement. The family are very pleased at the progress of both these older children in a good school – Moulsham High School. Can this be replicated if they are moved on to the roadside with the other 20% of Travellers who have no Legal place to live?

Lots of other factors I have not included - such as the claim that this "infill" has been occupied by Trailers for about 90 years! When this family moved on to the land it was a mess and the chassis of an abandoned trailer was still in situ. One very interesting statement made by David Steers was that of a quote from the Council, Mrs Lyons(?), " Because no-one has had a trailer on this land for 8 years before you arrived,has elapsed" I think that this is a statement that needs to be investigated.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

PS The 2 solicitors who have worked for David Steers are Neil Wicks and, more recently, at the High Court at Christmas, Matthew Bennet.